

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sheet package which can be loaded in a sheet storage unit of a printer, comprising:  
a stack of sheets as print media for the printer; and

5 a package member covering the exterior of the stack of sheets, wherein:  
the package member includes a first portion covering one of upper and lower faces of the stack of sheets, a second portion connecting with the first portion and covering a side face of the stack of sheets, and a third portion connecting with the second portion and covering the other of the upper and lower faces of the stack of sheets, and

10 the first portion of the package member includes a first exposing portion exposing part of the stack of sheets to allow entrance of a sheet feed roller of the printer, and

the package member includes a second exposing portion exposing a side part of the stack of sheets facing a pressing member provided to a side wall of the sheet storage unit of the printer parallel to a sheet feed direction so that the pressing member can press the stack of  
15 sheets against a positioning portion provided to the opposite side wall of the sheet storage unit parallel to the sheet feed direction.

2. The sheet package according to claim 1, wherein the second portion covers a side  
20 face of the stack of sheets on an upstream side in the sheet feed direction.

3. The sheet package according to claim 1, wherein the sheets are heat-sensitive sheets.

4. The sheet package according to claim 1, wherein a part of the package member  
covering the exterior of the stack of sheets consists of the first portion, the second portion and  
25 the third portion.

5. The sheet package according to claim 1, wherein lengths of the first portion and the third portion of the package member in a direction orthogonal to the sheet feed direction are equal to a length of the sheet in the direction orthogonal to the sheet feed direction.

6. The sheet package according to claim 1, wherein the first portion includes an  
30 identification part readable to a sensor of the printer, the identification part including:

colored/uncolored parts colored/uncolored in a prescribed color; and  
 a positioning cut made into the uncolored part in order to form a tab part which can  
 be engaged with the sensor of the printer.

- 5 7. A package member covering the exterior of a stack of sheets and being loadable in a  
 sheet storage unit of a printer, wherein:

the package member includes a first portion covering one of upper and lower faces of  
 the stack of sheets, a second portion connecting with the first portion and covering a side face  
 of the stack of sheets, and a third portion connecting with the second portion and covering the  
 10 other of the upper and lower faces of the stack of sheets, and

the first portion includes a first exposing portion exposing part of the stack of sheets  
 to allow entrance of a sheet feed roller of the printer, and

the package member includes a second exposing portion exposing a side part of the  
 stack of sheets facing a pressing member provided to a side wall of the sheet storage unit of  
 15 the printer parallel to a sheet feed direction so that the pressing member can press the stack of  
 sheets against a positioning portion provided to the opposite side wall of the sheet storage unit  
 parallel to the sheet feed direction.

8. A printer comprising:

20 a sheet package including a stack of sheets as print media and a package member  
 covering the exterior of the stack of sheets;

a sheet storage unit in which the sheet package is loaded; and

a sheet feed roller provided to a bottom of the sheet storage unit for feeding the  
 stacked sheets one by one, wherein:

25 the sheet storage unit includes a positioning portion provided to its one side wall  
 parallel to a sheet feed direction and a pressing member provided to the opposite side wall  
 parallel to the sheet feed direction being biased toward the one side wall, and

the package member includes a first portion covering one of upper and lower faces of  
 the stack of sheets, a second portion connecting with the first portion and covering a side face  
 30 of the stack of sheets on an upstream side in the sheet feed direction, and a third portion  
 connecting with the second portion and covering the other of the upper and lower faces of the  
 stack of sheets, and

the first portion of the package member includes a first exposing portion exposing part of the stack of sheets to allow entrance of the sheet feed roller, and

the package member includes a second exposing portion exposing a side part of the stack of sheets facing the pressing member so as to allow pressing by the pressing member.

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9. A sheet package which can be loaded in a sheet storage unit of a printer, comprising:  
a stack of sheets as print media for the printer; and  
a package member covering the exterior of the stack of sheets, wherein:

the package member includes a first portion covering one of upper and lower faces of  
10 the stack of sheets, a second portion connecting with the first portion and covering a side face  
of the stack of sheets on an upstream side in a sheet feed direction, and a third portion  
connecting with the second portion and covering the other of the upper and lower faces of the  
stack of sheets, and

the first portion of the package member includes an identification part readable to a  
15 sensor unit of the printer and a configuration allowing entrance of a sheet feed roller of the  
printer, and

the third portion has edge parts on its upstream side and downstream side in the sheet  
feed direction, the edge parts being configured to make contact with inner surfaces of the  
sheet storage unit on its upstream side and downstream side in the sheet feed direction  
20 respectively when the sheet package is loaded in the sheet storage unit, and

the package member is positioned in the sheet feed direction by the contact of the  
edge parts of the third portion with the inner surfaces of the sheet storage unit.

10. The sheet package according to claim 9, wherein the first portion is formed to be  
25 shorter than the top board in the sheet feed direction in order to allow the entrance of the sheet  
feed roller.

11. The sheet package according to claim 9, wherein a difference between a distance  
between the inner surfaces of the sheet storage unit on the upstream side and downstream side  
30 in the sheet feed direction and a dimension of the third portion in the sheet feed direction is  
within 1.0 mm.

12. The sheet package according to claim 9, wherein the side board of the package member covers a side face of the stack of sheets on the upstream side in the sheet feed direction.

5 13. The sheet package according to claim 9, wherein the second portion of the package member covers a side face of the stack of sheets extending in the sheet feed direction.

14. The sheet package according to claim 9, wherein the first portion, the second portion and the third portion of the package member are formed integrally.

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15. A package member covering the exterior of a stack of sheets and being loadable in a sheet storage unit of a printer, wherein:

the package member includes a first portion covering one of upper and lower faces of the stack of sheets, a second portion connecting with the first portion and covering a side face of the stack of sheets on an upstream side in a sheet feed direction, and a third portion connecting with the second portion and covering the other of the upper and lower faces of the stack of sheets, and

the first portion includes an identification part readable to a sensor unit of the printer and a configuration allowing entrance of a sheet feed roller of the printer, and

20 the third portion has edge parts on its upstream side and downstream side in the sheet feed direction, the edge parts being configured to make contact with inner surfaces of the sheet storage unit on its upstream side and downstream side in the sheet feed direction respectively when the sheet package is loaded in the sheet storage unit, and

the package member is positioned in the sheet feed direction by the contact of the edge parts of the third portion with the inner surfaces of the sheet storage unit.

16. A printer comprising:

a sheet package including a stack of sheets as print media and a package member covering the exterior of the stack of sheets;

30 a sheet storage unit in which the sheet package is loaded;

a sensor unit provided to a bottom of the sheet storage unit for identifying the type of the sheets stored in the sheet package; and

a sheet feed roller provided to the bottom of the sheet storage unit for feeding the stacked sheets one by one, wherein:

the package member includes a first portion covering one of upper and lower faces of the stack of sheets, a second portion connecting with the first portion and covering a side face of the stack of sheets on an upstream side in a sheet feed direction, and a third portion connecting with the second portion and covering the other of the upper and lower faces of the stack of sheets, and

the first portion includes an identification part readable to the sensor unit and a configuration allowing entrance of the sheet feed roller, and

the third portion has edge parts on its upstream side and downstream side in the sheet feed direction, the edge parts being configured to make contact with inner surfaces of the sheet storage unit on its upstream side and downstream side in the sheet feed direction respectively when the sheet package is loaded in the sheet storage unit, and

the package member is positioned in the sheet feed direction by the contact of the edge parts of the third portion with the inner surfaces of the sheet storage unit.